

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 /014 R

DRAFTED BY L/EA:PMNORTON:MAD

APPROVED BY L/EA:EGVERVILLE

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R 172104Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PP
SUBJ: ESTABLISHING NOTARY PUBLICS IN PNG
REF: PORT MORESBY 0395

1. FOLLOWING INFO ON NOTARY PUBLICS IN THE U.S. IS IN
RESPONSE TO PNG INQUIRIES VIA CONGEN.

2. NOTARY PUBLICS IN THE U.S. OPERATE UNDER AND ARE
GOVERNED BY STATE LAW (EXCEPT CONSULAR OR MILITARY NPS).
COMMON LAW ONCE DETERMINED THIS AREA OF THE LAW AND STILL
HAS IMPACT ON PARTICULAR QUESTIONS, BUT NEARLY EVERY STATE
NOW REGULATES ITS NOTARY PUBLICS BY STATUTE.

3. NPS NORMALLY RECEIVE A COMMISSION FROM THE GOVERNOR.
THIS IS, HOWEVER, ALMOST ENTIRELY PRO FORMA. ACTUAL
APPOINTMENTS ARE AUTHORIZED BY SUBORDINATE LOCAL OFFICIALS,
E.G., STATE SENATORS OR COUNTY JUDGES. UNLESS THERE ARE
STATUTORY LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF NPS, THIS AUTHORITY MAY
ALSO BE A MERE FORMALITY. NORMALLY AN APPLICANT NEED ONLY
DEMONSTRATE TO THE CLERK OF A LOCAL COURT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF
THE POSITION'S DUTIES AND A LACK OF A CRIMINAL RECORD AND
PAY A NOMINAL FEE TO BE COMMISSIONED.

4. MOST NPS PERFORM FUNCTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER
JOBS, E.G., BANKS, LAW FIRMS, BROKERAGE HOUSES, ETC.
THEY ARE REMUNERATED ENTIRELY BY THEIR PRIVATE EMPLOYERS
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AND PERFORM NP FUNCTIONS AS A CONVENIENCE FOR THOSE EMPLOYERS. MOST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ALSO PROVIDE NPS FOR NOTARIZATION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

5. TENURE IS NORMALLY FOR A FIXED TERM, E.G., FOUR YEARS. RENEWAL, HOWEVER, IS VIRTUALLY AUTOMATIC. NPS MAY, LIKE OTHER PUBLIC OFFICERS, BE REMOVED QUOTE FOR CAUSE UNQUOTE DURING THEIR TENURE.

6. MORE DETAILED INFO, INCLUDING COPY OF MARYLAND LAW AS EXEMPLARY BEING POUCHED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOTARIAL SERVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE141750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PMNORTON:MAD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750211-0702
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750641/aaaablss.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN L
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PORT MORESBY 0395
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greenet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAR 2003 by PhiliR0>; APPROVED <17 FEB 2004 by greenet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESTABLISHING NOTARY PUBLICS IN PNG
TAGS: PGOV, PP, US
To: PORT MORESBY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006